Town Improvement Committees.

15. The Town Improvement Committees on the whole did well during the year. They are slowly learning the art of raising local taxation for local purposes. A sum of Rs. 18,137 was raised in this way, which, added to opening balance of Rs. 8,902 and the Government grant of Rs. 46,644, made total of Rs. 73,683. The Committees spent Rs. 55,842, and the balance to th credit at the end of the year was Rs. 17,841. Rules have been drafted for throwi open a certain number of the non-official seats on the Committees to election the rate-payers. His Highness' Government hope to issue the Rules soon.

Medical Relief.

16. The Medical Department continued to do good work. 21 hospitals a 23 dispensaries were maintained during the year, inclusive of the new dispensa at Oodumbanshola, and exclusive of the Lunatic and Leper Asylums; and in add tion, 13 Medical Institutions received grants-in-aid. Since the close of the ye five new dispensaries have been opened, *viz.*, at Ettumanur, Kothamangalom, Ado Chengannoor and Kayancolam. A new hospital has been sanctioned for Kumili, b it has not yet been opened. The Government maintained during the year Vaidyasalas. Increased grants were given to some of the Vaidyans and a redistri bution of the Vaidyasalas was also effected.

Education.

17. 'Education' received considerable attention at the hands of the Government during the year. The main features in the administration of the Education Department were the introduction of the Education Code, the abolition of fees in the Lower Grade Elementary Schools maintained by the Department, the institution of the School Leaving Certificate Scheme, both for the Secondary and Elementary Courses, the Revision of the Courses of Instruction for both classes of schools, the issue of an Inspection Code, the sanction accorded to the organisation of a Teachers' College at Trivandrum, and the arrangements made for the publica tion of a new and improved set of Malayalam Readers for use in schools. There was a substantial increase in the *volume* of education. The total number of schoo rose from 3,448 to 3,706, and their strength from 2,06,017 to 2,17,674. T increase—especially in the strength—was mainly in the Sirkar Schools, due to th opening of several new schools, both for boys and girls. The percentage of scholar in the Sirkar Schools rose from 23 to 31, the percentages in the Private Aided an the Private Unaided Schools being 38 and 31 respectively. The expenditure o Education amounted to Rs. 7,60,364. 9% of the expenditure was on Direction and Inspection, 11% on Collegiate Education, 18% on Secondary Education, 51% on Elementary Education, and 11% on Special Education and Miscellaneous. The per centage of expenditure on Elementary (or Vernacular) Education rose from 47 to 51.

18. His Highness' Government are aware that apprehension is being felt in some quarters in regard to the future of Education and a great deal of criticism has also appeared on the subject; but so far, the criticisms have not been particularly

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